## Message Text

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**ACTION EB-07** 

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 IO-10 ISO-00 AGR-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00

COME-00 DODE-00 FRB-03 H-02 INR-07 INT-05 L-03 LAB-04

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 AID-05 CIEP-01 SS-15 STR-04

TAR-01 TRSE-00 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 FEAE-00 OMB-01

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R 221431Z DEC 75

FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3466

INFO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMCONSUL DURBAN

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMEMBASSY MASERU

AMEMBASSY MBABANE

USDEL MTN GENEVA

CONFIDENTIAL PRETORIA 4929

E.O. 11652: GDS TAGS: ETRD GATT SF

SUBJ: MTN: SOUTH AFRICAN APPROACH

REF: MTN GENEVA 9394

- 1. LINE GIVEN TO MCNAMARA AND NEWKIRK AGREES WHOLLY WITH LINE SAG DISPENSES HERE.
- 2. ONE POINT OF WHICH DELEGATION SHOULD BE AWARE CONCERNS PER CAPITA GNP. IN VIEW OF EXTREME INEQUALITY OF INCOME DISTRIBUTION THE PER CAPITA FIGURE IS NOT VERY USEFUL FOR MOST ANALYTICAL PURPOSES. SAG HOWEVER SEEMS TO WANT TO USE THE FIGURE (WHICH IN ANY CASE IS NOT LOW AT ABOUT \$1,170) TO PLEAD FOR TREATMENT AS LDC OR "SEMI-DEVELOPED" COUNTRY IN THE MTN. THIS ARGUMENT, CONFIDENTIAL

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ALREADY WEAK, WILL BE WEAKER STILL AS FROM OCTOBER, 1976 WHEN

3 MILLION OF THE POOREST CITIZENS WILL CEASE TO BE SA CITIZENS AND BECOME CITIZENS OF AN INDEPENDENT TRANSKEI. ONE RESULT WILL BE A SIGNIFICANT JUMP IN PER CAITA GNP CALCULATED ON THE BASIS OF THE REMAINING POPULATION OF ABOUT 22.4 MILLION. OUR VERY ROUGH CALCULATION GIVES A JUMP OF OVER 10 PERCENT IN PER CAPITA GNP IN SOUTH AFRICA ON THE DAY OF TRANSKEI INDEPENDENCE.

3. THE POINT IS ACADEMIC BUT IF THE SAG INSISTS ON SAYING THAT THIS IS A POOR COUNTRY THEY HAVE TO ARGUE THAT \$1,300 (1975 DOLLARS) IS A LOW PER CAPITA INCOME--A DIFFICULT POSITION TO TAKE. OF COURSE, IF THE SAG WANTS TO CLAIM CONCERN FOR THE OTHER MEMBERS OF THE CUSTOMS ARE (BOTSWANA, LESOTHO, SWAZILAND, TRANSKEI), THEY HAVE A POINT, BUT SOLICITUDE OVER THE WELFARE OF THESE MEMBERS HAS NOT BEEN A FEATURE OF SA TRADE POLICY (OR OTHER POLICIES).

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## Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994 Channel Indicators: n/a

**Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED** 

Concepts: MEETING DELEGATIONS, TARIFFS, NEGOTIATIONS, IMPORT CONTROLS

Control Number: n/a Copy: SINGLE Draft Date: 22 DEC 1975 Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960 Decaption Note: Disposition Action: RELEASED Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CunninFX
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975PRFTOR04929

Document Number: 1975PRETOR04929 Document Source: CORE Document Unique ID: 00

Drafter: n/a Enclosure: n/a Executive Order: GS Errors: N/A

Film Number: D750444-0292

From: PRETORIA Handling Restrictions: n/a Image Path:

ISecure: 1

Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19751219/aaaaaqen.tel Line Count: 78

Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM Office: ACTION EB Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL Original Handling Restrictions: n/a Original Previous Classification: n/a Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a

Page Count: 2

Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a Reference: 75 MTN GENEVA 9394 Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED Review Authority: CunninFX

Review Comment: n/a Review Content Flags: Review Date: 30 JUN 2003

**Review Event:** 

Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <30 JUN 2003 by GarlanWA>; APPROVED <03 NOV 2003 by CunninFX>

**Review Markings:** 

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JÚL 2006

**Review Media Identifier:** Review Referrals: n/a Review Release Date: n/a Review Release Event: n/a **Review Transfer Date:** Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a

Secure: OPEN Status: NATIVE

Subject: MTN: SOUTH AFRICAN APPROACH TAGS: ETRD, SF, GATT To: STATE

Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006